

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Headquarters  
Washington, DC 20546-0001



June 17, 2013

General Law Practice Group

Reply to Attn of:

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Attendees at a STEM dinner sponsored by National Instruments on June 17, 2013

On June 17, 2013, National Instruments, along with Educate Texas and Texas Instruments Foundation, is sponsoring the Texas STEM Celebration and Dinner. The event will take place at the Austin Convention Center in Austin, Texas at 6:00 p.m.

The purpose of this event is to build awareness of STEM successes and to create opportunities to network within the STEM community. Approximately 200 people are expected to attend. Business and education employees, Congressmen, staffers, state and local officials, academia, industry representatives, and members of the public and media have been invited as well as NASA personnel. The estimated cost of the event including all food and beverages is \$90.00 per person. I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g).

I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the event because it will further Agency programs or operations. Attendance at the event will provide NASA attendees with the opportunity to discuss STEM and other related educational issues with other guests. Accordingly, NASA employees, including NASA employees in non-career positions who are required to sign the ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490, may accept an invitation for themselves for free attendance to the event.

However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the sponsor, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

Attendees are reminded of the \$20 gift exception at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(a), which provides that employees may accept gifts valued at no more than \$20 per occasion (and no more than \$50 from one source in a calendar year). We understand that the event sponsors will be distributing microfiber cleaning cloths to the guests with a value estimated by the host of \$1.37 per item.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adam F. Greenstone".

Adam F. Greenstone